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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000799

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/11/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [TU](#) [CY](#)

SUBJECT: GREEK CYPRIOT PARTY LEADER ANASTASSIADES MEETS
TURKISH FM GUL

REF: ANKARA 427

(U) Classified by Political Counselor John Kunstadter, E.O.
12958, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: In the first visit by a Greek Cypriot politician to Turkey since 1963, Democratic Rally (DISY) Party leader Nicos Anastasiades met with Turkish FM and Deputy Prime Minister Gul in Ankara on February 10. We understand that (1) Anastasiades raised changes to the Annan Plan that could help DISY gain more support for it among Greek Cypriots, but he and Gul discussed few details; (2) Anastasiades brought no message from President Papadopoulos. Anastasiades meets PM Erdogan in Istanbul February 12. End Summary.

2. (C) According to ruling AK Party International Relations head Saban Disli, who was present at the meeting, Gul and Anastasiades talked about Cyprus for about 30 minutes of a two-hour meeting. DISY's trip to Turkey is being billed as party-to-party contact, and the rest of the meeting was taken up in discussion of political party matters.

3. (C) Some Turkish press accounts claimed the meeting had a detailed Cyprus agenda. Disli said Anastasiades told Gul that if there were "certain changes" to the Annan Plan, DISY would again push the Plan with the Greek Cypriot public. Anastasiades raised the Turkish military presence, changes in the Karpas and, according to Anastasiades, missing persons issues. However, Disli said the two discussed few details; Anastasiades did not present any written document and "tried to stay away from delicate issues." He brought no messages on behalf of President Papadopoulos.

4. (C) Anastasiades quietly requested a meeting with Gul through the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in September 2004, and the MFA's answer was a resounding no. This time, Anastasiades bypassed the MFA and quietly requested Gul and Erdogan meetings through AK party channels. The meeting took place at AK party headquarters, no MFA officials were present, and the MFA Cyprus Department had no role in or details about the AK/DISY contact (reftel).

5. (C) Disli said Gul expressed appreciation for Anastasiades' courage in accepting AK's invitation to visit Turkey. Disli's assessment to us is that Anastasiades is someone with whom AK could maintain dialogue. Anastasiades meets PM Erdogan in Istanbul on February 12.
EDELMAN